with Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, as on 1-1-2001, 15622 allopathic hospitals are functioning in the country and population served per hospital in the country is 65742. However, specific information in respect of Uttaranchal is not available.

Health being a State subject, it is for the respective State Governments to take necessary steps to provide medical facilities to its people. However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is providing medical facilities to the people through various National Health and Family Welfare Programmes. Under "Pradhanmantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana", Government has decided, in principle, to set up six superspeciahty hospitals on the pattern of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi in the States of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhatisgarh and Uttaranchal. In addition, the Government has also decided, in principle, to upgrade one existing medical institution in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

Persistence of Polio cases

537. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether persistence of polio cases in India inspite of 'Pulse Polio Programme' is posing a problem to the rest of the world;

(b) if so, the analysis of the causes; and

(c) the remedial action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 2002, there have been four polio cases in other countries and the sources have been detected to be from India. The spread to the other countries has been mainly due to migration of people from endemic areas within India to other countries.

(c) The polio eradication programme has been reviewed by India Experts Advisory Group (IEAG) and has recommended for upscaling Pulse Polio Programme during 2004-2006. As per the recommendation

of the IEAG the plan for Polio eradication for the next three year is as under:

In the year, 2004, 5 rounds of NIDs will be observed in January, February, April, September and October. One round of SNID in May (10 States namely UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Haryana, Delhi, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh & Assam) and MOP-UP Operations.

In the Year 2005, 2 rounds of NIDs and 2 rounds SNIDs will be observed.

In the year 2006, 2 rounds of NIDs and 2 rounds SNIDs will be observed.

Herbal Contraceptive Pill

538. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Scientists have developed world's first herbal contraceptive pill;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to patent the drug as well as to popularize it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha, an autonomous organization under the Department of AYUSH is developing after bomineral female Oral contraceptive drug "Pippalyadi Yog". The drug is under clinical trial.

(b) After the formulation has been found effective in Intra mural research of the Council, the project has been taken up by the Department of Family Welfare, Government of India to further access the efficacy. The Phase-1 Clinical trial was conducted as AIIMS New Delhi, JIPMER-Pondicherry, KEM Hospital-Mumbai and PGI-Chandigarh, after due approval from Drug Controller General of India and the medicine is found to be safe. Now the Phase-ll clinical trial will be initiated in the above said institutes. The NIPER Mohali will supply the capsules after ensuring quality and will simultaneously carry out the shelf-life studies and estrogen assay.

(c) Government is vigilant to protect the patent rights of this drug.